

19-401

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to inform them that in accordance with a requirement of the United States Constitution that a national census be taken every 10 years, and the nation's 24th census will be conducted as of April 1, 2020.

The census will include all persons who have a "usual residence" (the place where a person lives and sleeps most of the time) in the United States, without regard to a person's legal status or citizenship. Thus, members of foreign missions are expected to participate in the census.

In early March 2020, the Census Bureau will invite residents to respond to the census. Residents will receive this information in the mail and will have the opportunity to respond to the census via the internet, mail, or telephone.

Responses to the census are required by law, and all responses are kept confidential. Only authorized individuals have access to the stored data, and the information provided to the Census Bureau may only be used by a restricted number of authorized individuals who are sworn for life to protect the

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confidentiality of individual responses. Further, the information sought by the 2020 Census is substantially the same as or less than what is requested in order for missions to notify and accredit their personnel with the Department of State. It is important to note that if a household does not respond, a Census Bureau interviewer may visit to collect responses in person.

As a related, but separate matter, foreign missions are advised that the Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census maintains and makes available data concerning different aspects and trends associated with the population and demographics of the United States. The Department assumes that such information may be of utility to certain foreign missions. Please visit the following website for general information concerning this matter <https://www.census.gov/data.html>. Further, for questions concerning the census or the referenced data sets, please contact 1-844-275-3282 or census.askdata@census.gov.

Questions concerning the Department's expectation that members of foreign mission members comply with the upcoming census may be directed to the Office of Foreign Missions at OFM-Info@state.gov or by telephone at (202) 647-3417.

Department of State,



Washington, March 13, 2019.

